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(71) Applicant *(for all designated States except US)*: IMAGEMAP, INC. [US/US]; 6220 Bush River Road, Columbia, SC 29212 (US).

(72) Inventors; and
(75) Inventors/Applicants *(for US only)*: TRACY, Roger, H. [US/US]; Unit 1610, 680 North Lake Shore Drive, Chicago, IL 60611–4485 (US). REEVES, Edwin, H. [US/US]; 58 Lyme Bay, Columbia, SC 29212 (US). RADCLYFFE, Nicholas, J. [GB/GB]; The Old Dairy, Nup End Lane, Wingrave, Buckinghamshire HP22 4PX (GB). LONGDEN, Robert, Mark [GB/GB]; The Yews, Grange Park, Northington, Hampshire SO24 9TG (GB).

(74) Agents: HARDAWAY, John, B., III et al.; Nexsen Pruet Jacobs & Pollard, LLP, Post Office Drawer 10648, Greenville, SC 29603–0648 (US).

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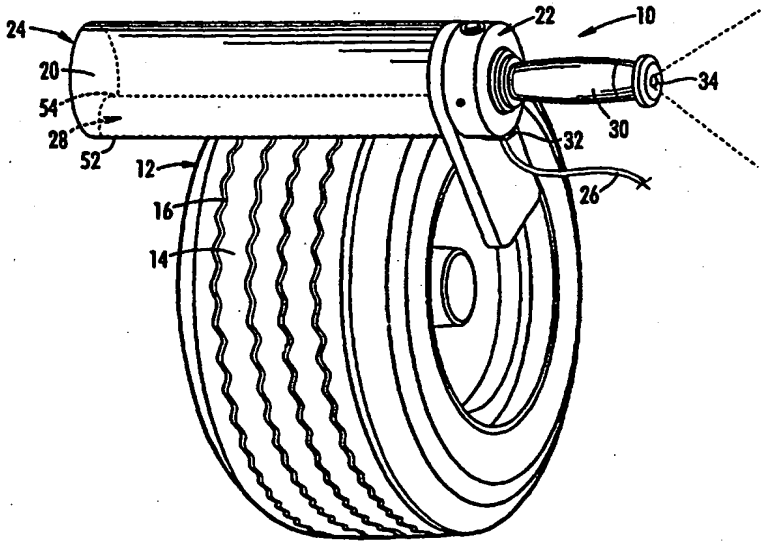
(54) Title: HAND HELD PROBE FOR MEASURING TIRE TREAD WEAR



(57) Abstract

A hand–held probe (10) for measuring a tire tread profile comprises a housing (20) with a slit (64) formed parallel to its major axis, a range finder (70) mounted inside the housing (20) in such a way that it can traverse much of the length of the tube while directing light from a laser through a window (60) and onto a tire surface, a bracket (50) that is carried by the proximal end of the tube to enable the user to hold the probe (10) in position against the tire, a serial port (32) for connection with a computer (40), and a handle (30) that houses the batteries for operation and an IR or RF transmitter. The IR or RF transmitter is for transmitting the tire tread profile wirelessly to a computer suitably equipped to receive IR or RF transmissions.